

GROWTH THROUGH AGRICULTURE GRANT/LOAN PROGRAM

Project Summary for Fiscal Year 2012

(July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012)

The Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) program is a grant and loan program established by the Montana Legislature to strengthen and diversify Montana's agriculture industry through development of new agricultural products and processes.

The GTA program offers Category I funding in the form of a grant or loan or both and funding is determined by a seven member Agriculture Development Council (Council) during scheduled meetings two to three times a year. The Council is comprised of the Directors of the Montana Department of Commerce and Montana Department of Agriculture and five Montanan's appointed by the Governor who are active in agriculture production.

The program also offers Category II: Mini Grant funding with applications that are accepted on an open-cycle basis until all available funds are committed to approved projects. Project awards are determined administratively by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Category I: Economic Development Projects

Category I projects may potentially be funded in a single application for a total amount of \$150,000 in the form of grant funding up to \$50,000 and loan funding up to \$100,000. Examples of project activities involve equipment purchases, advertising and promotion, and consultant services such as engineering costs and feasibility studies.

S&T Project Meats, Inc.

A \$30,000 grant was awarded to S&T Project Meats, Inc. to assist with the purchase of a smokehouse and stuffer equipment purchases associated with the expansion of the meat processing facility in Billings, Montana.

Café DeCamp, Inc.

A \$25,000 grant was awarded to Café DeCamp, Inc. to assist with the purchase of a ventilation hood needed for the local foods-based café's expansion to a new location in downtown Billings, Montana.

Dean Williamson dba Three Hearts Farm

A \$7,500 grant was awarded to Three Hearts Farm to assist with the purchase of a walk-in cooler in order to assist the vegetable producer in Bozeman, Montana to meet the demands of area institutional markets.

Demeter Bio-Resources Montana, LLC

A \$30,000 was awarded to Demeter Bio-Resources Montana, LLC to assist with the completion of a site-specific feasibility study of the proposed barley bio-fuels plant in Montana.

Lower Valley Processing, LLC

A \$30,000 grant was awarded to Lower Valley Processing, LLC to assist with the purchase of wrapping station equipment and cooler expansion costs associated with the expansion of the meat processing facility in Kalispell, Montana.

Robarr, LLC

A \$5,600 grant was awarded to assist the Conrad, Montana company with the purchase and installation of an air-tight storage container and packaging labels needed to apply for organic handler status in order to access natural food markets for the company's product.

Mannix Brothers, Inc.

A \$11,000 grant was awarded to Mannix Brothers, Inc. of Helmville, Montana to assist with website development, marketing and advertising costs associated with expanding the company's grass-finished beef product line.

Commercial Lynks, Inc.

A \$30,000 grant was awarded to Commercial Lynks, Inc. to assist with the completion of engineering design of a pulse crop processing facility in Montana.

Kalispell Bottling Company, LLC

A \$25,000 grant was awarded to Kalispell Bottling Company, LLC to assist with the purchase of equipment for the start-up of a fruit juice processing and bottling company in Kalispell, Montana.

Gallatin Valley Botanical, Inc.

A \$11,500 grant was awarded to Gallatin Valley Botanical, Inc. to assist with the purchase of a bed shaper, high density seeder and germination chamber needed in order to assist the salad greens producer in Bozeman, Montana with its expansion into larger markets.

Market Day Foods, Inc.

A \$7,400 grant was awarded to Market Day Foods, Inc. to assist with consultant costs associated to automate online ordering processes and to assist with the purchase and installation of commercial refrigeration and freezers for the online farmers' market company in Bozeman, Montana as it connects the Gallatin Valley's producers and consumers.

Good Foundations, Inc. dba Hidden Legend Winery

A \$5,500 grant was awarded to Good Foundations, Inc. dba Hidden Legend Winery to assist a mead (honey wine) producer in Victor, Montana with the purchase of ozone sterilization equipment.

Quinn Farm and Ranch

A \$15,000 loan was awarded to Quinn Farm and Ranch of Big Sandy, Montana to assist with the purchase of equipment needed to expand the business's culinary grade oilseed pressing facility.

Montana Monster Munchies, LLC

A \$6,000 grant was awarded to Montana Monster Munchies of Bozeman, Montana to assist with the costs of developing and implementing an initiative for Montana FFA chapters to raise funds using the company's baked products.

Montana Coffee Traders, Inc.

A \$4,500 grant was awarded to Montana Coffee Traders, Inc. to assist with the costs of developing a kitchen facility plan to expand the company's sale of baked goods and Montana Backyard salad dressing in Whitefish, Montana.

Prairie Heritage Farm, LLC

A \$16,000 grant was awarded to Prairie Heritage Farm, LLC of Conrad, Montana to assist with the purchase of seed cleaning equipment necessary for the business's ancient and heritage specialty crop seeds.

Headframe Spirits, Inc.

A \$14,500 loan was awarded to Headframe Spirits, Inc. of Butte, Montana to assist with the purchase of continuous flow distillation equipment needed to process the company's line of distilled spirits.

Rycom Transload Services, LLC

A \$15,000 grant was awarded to Rycom Transload Services, LLC to assist with the cost of construction materials needed to expand the company's rail trans-load system in Sunburst, Montana.

The Apple Barrel, Inc.

A \$15,000 grant was awarded to The Apple Barrel, Inc. of Kalispell to assist with the purchase of a cider press that will assist the company in meeting the increased demand for sweet cider as well as expand into the hard apple cider industry.

Great Northern Pasta Company

A \$45,000 grant was awarded to Great Northern Pasta Company of Whitefish, Montana to assist the pasta food product company with expansion costs of purchasing a walk-in dual refrigerator/freezer and blast freezer and associated costs of construction.

The Healthy Pantry

A \$13,500 grant was awarded to The Healthy Pantry of Red Lodge, Montana to assist with the purchase of retail store ready display units that will feature the company's dinner kits.

Kootenai Cannery

A \$20,500 grant was awarded to Kootenai Cannery of Eureka, Montana to assist with expansion costs of purchasing a commercial grade cook range and walk-in cooler needed to increase production of the company's product lines of jams, jellies and syrups.

The Orchard at Flathead Lake, LLP

A \$18,980 grant was awarded to The Orchard at Flathead Lake, LLP of Eureka, Montana to assist the company with costs for excavation, trellis materials and cherry trees to prepare a plot for researching a tree growth method intended to increase fruit production of Flathead Lake Cherry trees.

Hampton Enterprises, Inc. dba Tizer Meats

A \$25,000 grant was awarded to Hampton Enterprises, Inc. dba Tizer Meats of Helena, Montana to assist the company with the purchase of an equipment washing and sanitizing system needed for its expanded meat processing facility.

Category II: Mini Grant Projects

Category II projects may be funded a maximum amount of \$2,500 for any single application. However, individual grants are generally limited to \$1,000. The Mini Grant program was developed to encourage economic and agricultural development through educational, promotional, marketing, travel and other business activities.

Amalgamated Sope Company, LLC

A \$1,000 grant was awarded to Amalgamated Sope Company, LLC of Whitefish, Montana to assist with printing costs for 5,000 new packing boxes as part of rebranding efforts associated with a safflower oil-based soap product.

Timeless Seeds, Inc.

A \$500 grant was awarded to Timeless Seeds, Inc. of Conrad, Montana to assist with workshop costs associated with the “A Timeless Festival – Celebrating Local Food” event.

Field Day Farms, LLC

A \$2,500 grant was awarded to assist with the purchase of equipment and telecommunication services costs associated with increasing Field Day Farms, LLC Online Farmers Market project in Gallatin County.

Flathead Lake Organic Cherry Cooperative

A \$2,500 grant was awarded Flathead Lake Organic Cherry Cooperative of Bigfork, Montana to assist with the completion of a feasibility study, business and marketing plan for a certified organic cherry packing plant.